

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the outstanding Office Action, dated July 16, 2004. Claims 1, 4, and 6 have been amended. Claims 7, 8, and 11 have been cancelled. The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1-6, 9, and 10. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing the features of Claims 7, 8, and 11. Claims 7, 8, and 11 have been cancelled. It is believed that the drawings show every feature of the invention as specified in the currently pending claims.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 6-11 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 6 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,826,523 to Eschbaugh. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended defines the invention as a pipe connection including a pipe, a holding plate and a connection piece. The pipe is provided with a collar which serves as an abutment for the holding plate. The holding plate is provided with a conical holding section and the connection piece is provided with a groove into which the conical holding section of the holding plate engages.

The Eschbaugh reference discloses a quick connect coupling for a tube. A collet 34 is provided which has a plurality of axially extending fingers 38. These fingers engage a shoulder 24 provided in a body 13. Therefore, the collet 34 does not have a conical holding section into which the shoulder 24 of the body 13 engages. Thus, the Eschbaugh reference does not disclose the invention as defined in amended Claim 1.

The Examiner rejected Claims 6, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,826,523 to Eschbaugh in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,521,912 to Maurer and U.S. Patent No. 5,848,616 to Vogel et al.. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 defines the invention as a method for the manufacture of a pipe connection including providing a pipe having a collar, a holding plate, and a connection piece having

a groove formed therein. The holding plate is pushed onto the pipe so that it lies against the collar. The pipe is pressed into the connection piece by means of a clamping tool which engages on the holding plate. A spreading tool is pressed against the holding plate, so that a holding section is widened conically started from an annular initial shape, whereby it engages into the groove in the connection piece.

The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the connection of the Eschbaugh reference with a spreading tool such as taught by the Vogel et al. reference. As described above, the collet 34 of the Eschbaugh reference has a plurality of axially extending fingers 38. The Eschbaugh reference teaches that the fingers 38 of the collet 34 spread outwardly to engage the shoulder 24 without the use of a spreading tool. Additionally, forcing the fingers 38 of the collet 34 of the Eschbaugh reference outwardly by pressing a spreading tool against the fingers 38 might damage or undesirably deform the fingers 38. Therefore, the Eschbaugh reference teaches away from the use of a spreading tool as defined in Claim 6. Thus, the express teachings of the references teach away from the combination proposed by the Examiner. Additionally, the combination of the references is just as likely to produce a variety of other composite combinations besides the claimed invention. Thus, it is believed that Claims 6, 9, and 10 are allowable over the cited references.

For the above mentioned reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of record. In view of the amendments and above remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Any fees due in connection with this Amendment should be charged to Deposit Account No. 13-0005.